

Climate Change and Foreign policy

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based on a study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development
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Climate Change as a Foreign Policy Challenge

- Climate change cannot be tackled effectively purely through environmental goals
- Traditional foreign policy alliances not effective either – climate change not caused by one hostile power

Analyses and recommendations in five areas:

1. International relations
2. Energy security and investments
3. Trade and investment
4. Development co-operation
5. International peace and security

1. International diplomatic relations:

Further climate change objectives in

- EU
- Transatlantic relations,
- Arctic cooperation (new "Great Game")
- UN relations

Furthering climate change objectives within the EU

- Integrate in internal & external policies
- Fund for today's – not yesterday's problems
- Include in foreign affairs track (GAERC, CFSP)
- Enhance strategic partnerships with emerging economies
- Integrate into Lisbon Agenda
- Integrate into development cooperation

Furthering climate change objectives within the UN

Treat climate change as

- a cross-cutting issue
- a fundamental threat to prosperity and security

2. Energy security & investment:

- Make clear that climate friendly actions will enhance energy supply & security concerns.
- Partner with importing countries on clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Help exporting countries diversify their economies through market access and liberalization.

3. Trade & investment

- Liberalization carried out properly (with environmental regulation) provides means & goodwill for DC's to address mitigation and adaptation.
- Trade and investment rules can act as aids or obstacles to climate change objectives.

Trade and investments

Recommendations:

- Screen potential WTO outcomes from a sustainable development perspective.
- Incorporate climate change concerns into aid-for-trade.
- Improve export credit standards to align with climate change & sustainable development objectives.

4. Development co-operation

- Leverage of ODA in climate change negotiations is marginal - particularly in regard to high-emitting DC's
- ODA has little effect in a post 2012 perspective
- ODA is an important source of financing for other DC's – LDC's.

ODA can address climate change issues if properly linked with national development priorities

i.e. mainstream in

- Bilateral assistance
- IFI's
- UN
- Global programmes

5. International peace & security

- Climate change is still a low priority
- Threats feel abstract
- Response measures are poorly defined

BUT climate change may:

- aggravate environmental degradation (undermine the carrying capacity of many developing countries)
- accelerate resource scarcity (water, land)
- drive distress migration (environmental refugees)
- drive conflict over strategic trade routes and newly accessible resources
- lead to territorial losses

AND: Appreciation of the security implications of climate change may help

- Raise awareness and mobilize political will to address mitigation and adaptation needs in
 - International relations
 - Energy investments and energy security
 - Trade and investment
 - Development policy
- Build capacity to deal with security threats from climate-induced degradation and scarcity (adaptation)

HOWEVER:

- Climate change cannot be mitigated by traditional security policy instruments (i.e. armed force)
- Avoid that ambitions to have climate change recognized as "high politics" divert attention from mitigation and other adaptation efforts

"We are facing a change over from an oil-based economy to something still unknown in a world characterized by population growth, poverty, and increasing competition for resources.

The challenge is to handle that without resorting to historically well known adaptation mechanisms, such as migration, war, epidemics, and hunger"

Professor Hans Aage, University of Roskilde, Politiken, January 2007